

W. C. T. U. Column.



Through the courtesy of the Editor of this space is granted by MARTHA J. FRANCIS, Local Press Superintendent, as appointed by the State Organizer, Mrs. L. S. LaMance.

W. C. T. U. PRINCIPLES:

Total Abstinence: Prohibition of the Liquor Traffic; One Standard of Morals for Men and Women; Home Protection; Equal Suffrage; and the Teaching of Scientific Temperance in Public Schools.

Hon. Seaborn Wright's Oration.

No study so rivets my attention, so holds the passionate interest of my mind, as the biography of nations. From the dawn of history to the darkness of the middle ages, the story of the life of one is the story of all, yet a story so fraught with meaning, so filled with lessons, upon the faithful learning of which the lives of all nations hang, that each seems new in the great truth it unfolds; the light of the central truth is one blazing forth upon the other "like another sun risen at mid-noon." And the lesson, my countrymen, written in letters of living light across the face of all history is this: "THE WAGES OF NATIONAL SIN IS DEATH." This destruction was given the wages of poverty or ignorance, but of vice. When Babylon, Greece and Rome were tottering to their fall there was no dearth of wealth, no decay of material power. The dreams of avarice were dimmed by the enormity of their riches. Their palaces and gardens were visions of splendor and beauty, their hilltops were covered with gorgeous temples, their streets with monuments of the living and the dead. And so to the end did the national intellect retain its vigor. In poetry and literature and science, they sang and wrote and speculated until the darkness fell. Wealth and intellect have no arm to save when they render allegiance to vice. Rather are they blind Samsons, pulling down the pillars of the temple of the State to perish in the common ruin.

The man is the State; his character is the character of the State. Given a nation of saloonkeepers and the nation is a drunkard. Given a nation of gamblers and the nation as a whole becomes the embodiment of this passion. Given a nation of libertines and prostitutes and the nation itself is a mammoth monster of lust. The nation is what its people are—regardless of its resources, its wealth, its power.

What is the trouble with this wonderful nation of ours? Something is wrong—terribly wrong. It is not poverty. Ours is the richest nation on earth. Our resources, developed and undeveloped, have never been equaled by any nation dead or living. It is not ignorance. The range of our mental view is higher, broader than of any people the world has ever seen. Let me come to the truth at once—it is sin. Sin that is undermining the character of the individual citizen, and up through individual citizenship the body politic, the nation.

Are we becoming a race of drunkards? The people of this republic spend directly for liquors annually two thousand million dollars. It is spent largely by the masses of the people, and out of it comes poverty, crime, social and political rottenness beyond the mental grasp of living man. Why does the national government tolerate it? Why does the Government of Washington and Jefferson and Lincoln permit a few thousand liquor barrooms to capitalize the appetites, the passions, aye, the sins of the people to make money out of it? The answer is simple and direct: The government revenue of \$215,000,000 out of the untold millions reaped from the wreck and slaughter of her children.

This in conclusion: the contest between the forces of good and evil is as old as the history of men. Great leaders look down upon us to-night from all the nations that have gone before—captains of the rival forces contending for the mastery of men and nations.

Twenty centuries ago, Nero reigned in the palace of the Caesars. He was master of the destinies of men and nations. He stood upon a pinnacle, "sun flashed," his power to bless or save was world wide. The brief span of his public life is the crown of infamy in human history. Fidelity to truth was to him an unmeaning term, conviction of duty, the dream of fools. He was a coward, and, like all cowards, a brute. The tears of women and children shone as jewels to his distorted vision. The groans of men in agony, the sound of breaking hearts, was music to his ears. He died as he had lived, a mountebank, a coward and a fool.

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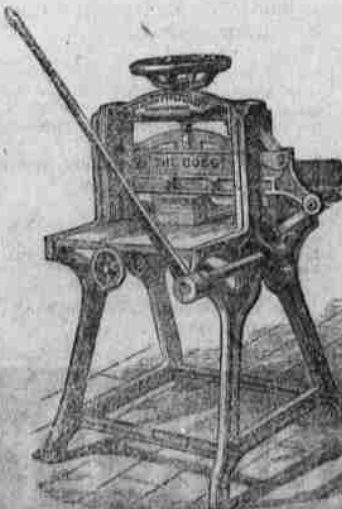
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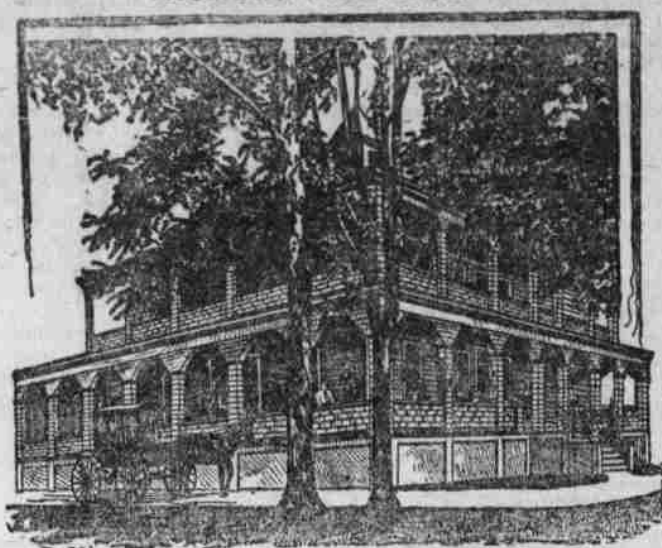
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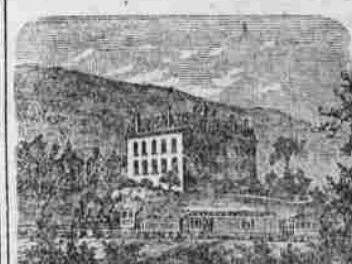
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PARTNERSHIP ESTATE.
Notice is hereby given that letters of administration upon the estate of James H. Wheeler, late of Iron county, deceased, have been granted to the undersigned, William Hampton, who as Administrator has taken possession of the partnership estate of James H. Wheeler, deceased, and Mrs. Cora E. Hampton. All persons having claims against said partnership estate are required to exhibit them to me for allowance, and file said claims with the Probate Court of Iron County, Missouri, within one year after the filing of said Administrator's bond, or they will be forever barred. Said bond was filed in the office of the Probate Court on the 16th day of December, 1907.
January 30, 1908.
WILLIAM HAMPTON, Administrator.

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